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BY LEONARD ARONSON

FORMER PRESIDENT Johnson took second billing to the visit by the Apollo 13 astronauts and the controversy over President Nixon's address on Cambodia.

But the spotlight will shift to Johnson when he arrives late today in Chicago to make his first formal speech since leaving the White House 2 years ago.

The parallels between Johnson's departure from office after being unable to end the war in Viet Nam, and Nixon's decision to expand that war into Cambodia, are clearly drawn.

Political analysts were interested in hearing Johnson's analysis of the current administration's decision to move in the same direction which ultimately caused enough national divisiveness to force him from office.

Johnson was to speak at a $100-a-plate dinner sponsored by the Cook county Democratic party and attended by the county slate. Some 5,000 guests were expected at the Conrad Hilton hotel.

As political ghosts always seem to find a way back to haunt us, Johnson's visit sparked another round in one of the grimmer episodes in recent American history.

The former President was expected to be served with a subpena to appear before federal District Judge Hubert Will to answer questions about the assassination of President Kennedy.

THE SUBPENA, requested by legal researcher Sherman Skolnick and issued yesterday by the clerk of federal District court, is part of a suit charging that an assassination plot against Kennedy in Chicago was suppressed.

The subpena calls for Johnson to produce "notes, memoranda, and statements regarding a film interview between [him] and CBS-TV correspondent Walter Cronkite without any parts . . . being deleted, altered or removed."

Skolnick also requested a similar subpena be issued to John Lane, manager of the Chicago CBS bureau at 630 N. McClurg st.

The interview with Cronkite, made in September, 1969, will be aired for the first time at 6:30 tomorrow evening.

Earlier this month, the Washington Post published a story saying they learned that parts of the interview critical of the Warren commission's report were later deleted at Johnson's request.

RICHARD S. SALANT, president of CBS news, later admitted that certain material had been deleted from the broadcast at Johnson's bidding, but would not say whether they related to the Warren report.

Johnson allegedly requested the deletions on the grounds of national security, Salant said.

John C. Meiszner, the United States Marshal here, said he will have to assign a deputy to serve the subpena to Johnson unless a court order quashing the subpena is issued. Johnson will be ordered to appear in Judge Will's courtroom 10 a. m., May 11.

United States Atty. Thomas A. Foran said "we have no plans to go into court today" to ask the subpena be quashed. "It would be questionab'e whether one could really quash service of a subpena."

Foran said the deputy marshal does not have to personally hand the subpena to Johnson. "The subpena could be considered served if a duly qualified representative of Johnson accepts it," Foran said.

The subpenas are part of Skolnick's suit against the National Archives and Records service, in which he claims information about the alleged Chicago plot against Kennedy was suppressed.